

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAM-01 /073 W

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R 231010Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4743

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION GENEVA

USNATO BRUSSELS 374

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW, SP, CZ, CSCE

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER PALME'S COMMENTS ON SPAIN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND CSCE

1. PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME MET PRIVATELY ON MAY 13 WITH THE U.S. AMBASSADORS TO THE NORDIC STATES, ASSEMBLED IN STOCKHOLM FOR THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NORDIC CHIEFS OF MISSION. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS FROM THE AMBASSADORS, PALME COMMENTED ON THE SITUATIONS PREVAILING IN SPAIN AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ON THE CSCE. THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON THE KEKKONEN PLAN FOR A NORDIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY BY AMBASSADOR AUSTAD FROM HELSINKI. THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. SPAIN. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE SWEDISH SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS NOW CONCERNED WITH HELPING THE SPANISH SOCIALISTS TO DEVELOP THAT ORGANIZATIONAL BASE WHICH THE  
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PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS CONSPICUOUSLY LACKED, AND WHICH EN-

ABLED THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS TO EXERT SO POWERFUL AN INFLUENCE ON PORTUGUESE POLITICS. A SWEDISH SOCIALIST PARTY DELEGATION HAS MET WITH SPANISH SOCIALIST LEADERS IN SPAIN, AND A DELEGATION OF THE LATTER HAS VISITED SWEDEN. PALME SAID THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SPAIN IS IN A STATE OF SUSPENSION, AND THAT THE REGIME IS "CRUMBLING." AS LONG AS FRANCO LIVES, THE REGIME IS LIKELY TO SUBSIST. FRANCO'S DEATH WILL TRIGGER FAR REACHING CHANGES.

3. CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HIS STATEMENTS OF APRIL 17 AND 19 ON THE DUBCEK LETTER WERE PROMPTED BY REPORTS OF AN INCIPIENT PURGE OF LIBERAL ELEMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE THOUGHT HIS STATEMENTS MAY HAVE HELPED TO FORESTALL LARGE-SCALE PERSECUTION. HE SAID HIS CRITICAL REMARKS ON THE DUBCEK CASE HAVE NOT AFFECTED SWEDISH-CZECH STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONSHIPS, NOR DID THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, IN HIS LONG CONVERSATION WITH HIM SHORTLY AFTER HE MADE HIS STATEMENTS, TAKE EXCEPTION.

4. CSCE. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE GROWING INTOLERANCE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REGIME MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT PROGRESS TOWARDS THE CONCLUSION OF THE CSCE. THIS WAS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR HIS STATEMENT IN DEFENSE OF DUBCEK, SINCE AGREEMENT ON THE CSCE WOULD MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTE TO DETENTE IN EUROPE AND, THUS, BENEFIT SWEDEN.  
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